

# MARIPOSA PARK PROJECT



MARIPOSA PARK SITE

## Project History:

The City of Mountain View is moving forward with creating a new 0.6 acre City “mini-park” in the Mariposa Avenue neighborhood. The City purchased two residential properties (fronting on both Mariposa Avenue and the terminus of West Dana Street) in 2007 for the purpose of building the park. The goal of the mini-park is to create outdoor open space within an existing neighborhood, providing some minimal recreational uses, such as children’s play, seating and lawn. More intensive recreational uses such as organized sports facilities, restrooms, BBQ’s and lighting are reserved for larger neighborhood or community parks. In late 2009, the City underwent a thorough selection process for a qualified park design firm and ultimately chose Robert Mowat Associates, a Landscape Architecture firm in San Francisco, to develop the Mariposa Park design.

## Design Process:

The City is holding open community meetings to involve the neighborhood and community in the design of the park. On March 11, 2010, the first of several planned design and community input meetings was held. This first meeting in the design process involved initial community design input and park discussion that provided the City and the designers with the direction on what features the neighborhood wanted to see in the park. The design firm will then prepare conceptual sketches based on the neighborhood input and present the sketches at a second community meeting. Using the feedback they receive on the conceptual sketches, the design firm will prepare a Conceptual Plan for presentation to the Parks and Recreation Commission. At this meeting, the public will have another chance to provide feedback on the Conceptual Plan and ultimately the Parks and Recreation Commission will decide whether or not to recommend approval of the Plan to City Council.

## Community Meeting #1 3-11-2010:

On Thursday, March 11, 2010, a community meeting was held at the Mountain View Senior Center to bring together the neighborhood and provide a forum for input, feedback and information concerning the creation of the new Mariposa Park. The meeting, led by the City and the design firm, Robert Mowat Associates, began with introductions and a project history by Ms. Anne Marie Starr of the City of Mountain View. In attendance were members from the Public Works Department and the Community Services Department, along with Police Community Liaison Ms. Liz Wylie and City Council Member, Mr. John Inks. Approximately 40 neighbors were also in attendance.

The meeting was divided into three areas of discussion. Robert Mowat first led a general question and answer period receiving general input and responding to ideas, comments and concerns from the neighborhood. A second discussion was a PowerPoint presentation intended to clarify possible park uses and elements for the Mariposa site. The third portion of the community meeting was a public design process and interaction.

## Next Steps:

Robert Mowat Associates is currently in the process of creating conceptual sketches. These drawings will be presented at the next neighborhood meeting at the Mountain View Senior Center on Thursday, April 29th from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. We invite everyone to please attend and be a part of this exciting project. For any questions please contact Anne Marie Starr at (650) 903-6311 or [annemarie.starr@mountainview.gov](mailto:annemarie.starr@mountainview.gov)







## Community Input:

Numerous ideas, concepts and concerns were discussed in our first community meeting ranging from City wide issues of traffic, parking, pedestrian traffic patterns, potential for crime, to specific items of concerns such as truck parking overnight in the neighborhood. The following is a list of general and some site specific comments and ideas that were discussed in the meeting:

*"Pedestrian access and traffic flows along West Dana to the park should be looked at and studied."* The designer and the City will look into impacts along West Dana and throughout the neighborhood.

*"What is the schedule?"* We are anticipating demolition of the on-site buildings in fall 2010 and construction to begin sometime in early 2011.

*"How will the new park affect parking in the neighborhood?"* As with all City mini-parks, it is anticipated that this park will attract very few people from other neighborhoods and most park visitors will walk to the park from the immediate neighborhood. Ms. Liz Wylie responded to traffic and parking concerns and possible enforcement solutions and underscored the fact that there have been no parking problems at other City mini-parks because they are typically used by the surrounding neighborhood.

*"What are park hours?"* All parks in the City are closed from one-half hour after sunset to sunrise. Potential areas for "loitering" will be minimized in the design by providing clear sightlines, no visibility shadows and programming park uses so that large groups will not be inclined to stay for long periods.

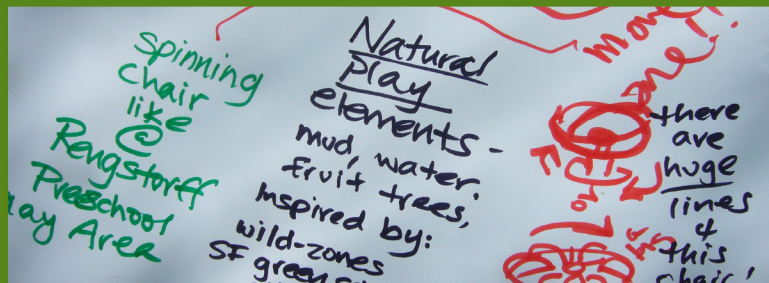
*"What will happen with construction traffic?"* The designer and the City will plan for a construction staging program with the majority of construction traffic accessing the site from Mariposa Avenue.

*"Will the park create more traffic and noise?"* It is anticipated that most park users will walk to the site so traffic should not be a problem and any increase in noise will be minimal given the proposed park elements.

One community member expressed appreciation to the City for moving forward with a new park for the neighborhood.

*"Can the existing home at 303 Mariposa be relocated?"* The City extensively researched the options and possibilities for relocating the home and ultimately advertised for bids (with no minimum bid specified) to have the building relocated off site by a private party but no bids were received. When the City followed up with potential bidders to find out why they did not bid, the potential bidders all said it was too difficult and cost prohibitive to pursue.

*"One neighbor expressed concerns with property values, keeping children safe, but no large walls."* It is the intent of the City and designers to keep an open visibility to the park for both community eyes and City police while still providing some type of low landscaping or fence along the Mariposa Avenue frontage to prevent children from running into the street.



*"Questions concerning fences were brought up:"* The south fence will likely remain untouched. The north fence and the east fence will be replaced in kind.

The meeting attendees were broken up into groups and given a blank plan of the site for them to draw what they would like to see in the park. Numerous ideas and comments were made on the plans showing preferences for particular play equipment, benches, seating, tables, shade, water play elements, exercise equipment, sand, fencing, screening, lawn, native plants and other minor associated landscape elements.

There were numerous comments for preference of thematic play elements and the possible inclusion of the history of the site into the final plans.

